(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) to (e) Setting up industries at different locations, including rural areas is primarily governed by commercial perception of the entrepreneurs. The Central and State Governments supports the initiatives of the entrepreneurs through some schemes by granting subsidy, concessional loan, etc. Setting up of industries in rural areas is facilitated through schemes like Prime Minister Rojgar Yojna and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) being implemented by Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries. Under REGP, an amount of Rs. 107946.85 lakhs was released as margin money to various States till 31.3.2004.

Effect of Tea Import on Domestic Producers

†4363. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic producers are facing a lot of difficulties due to increase in the import of tea during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to reduce the import of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Most of the teas imported into the country is for the purpose of re-export. Such imports for re-export increases the price competitiveness of Indian teas in the international market besides catering to the requirements of international buyers. The quantum of tea imported is very small in comparison to domestic production.

Mechanism to study problems of industry

4364. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Ministry has evolved a mechanism to study the problems being faced by industry from time to time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) and (b) To study the problems of industry and formulate strategies, periodical meetings are held with the Apex/specific industrial associations, existing and potential investors etc. Besides, there are formal institutional mechanisms in place to ensure continuous dialogue with trade and industry. These include the establishment of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council. This is an apex body to identify problems and constraints faced by the industry and provide inputs for policy making as well as suggest measures for enhancing competitiveness of Indian Industry.

(c) Does not arise.

SEZ in Bellary, Hubli and Mysore

4365. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to set up Special Economic Zones in Bellary, Hubli and Mysore in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Imposition of Strict norms for import of Indian shrimp by Japan

4366. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan, like the EU, has imposed strict standards for import of shrimp from India, following the presence of banned antibiotics in some consignments; and